

The VVFC News Alert

# BACKPAGE

April / MAY 2004



## What to do with your flu...

Many of you have Influenza vaccine left in your refrigerator and are probably wondering, "What should I do with my flu?" Vaccinate all your eligible VFC children with your left over Influenza vaccine until it expires on June 30, 2004. If you have access to children younger than 9 years of age who have never been vaccinated against Influenza and who are eligible to receive it, you can take the opportunity to vaccinate them with at least one dose now. Then next year they will need only one dose!

Once you have administered all the Influenza vaccine necessary for your patients, please return the vaccine as expired using a VVFC Vaccine Return form, and fax it to the VVFC Order Center (804-864-8090 or 804-864-8089).

## Moving on to 2004-05

You do not need to submit an advanced Influenza order for your VVFC stock like you do for your private stock. Keep an eye out in the next few Backpage issues for information regarding the 2004-05 Influenza season. Included in the August issue every year is the VVFC Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Order form. There will be a deadline for submitting this form, so be sure to fill it out promptly!

## Prevnar Supply Update

Effective March 2, 2004, the CDC discontinued the 3rd and 4th dose of Prevnar. However, children with certain health conditions, such as sickle cell anemia or immune system disorders, are at increased risk of severe disease and should continue to receive the full, routine, four doses.

The VVFC Order Center will be monitoring order frequency and order amounts carefully until the Prevnar shortage is resolved. Vaccine orders should only occur quarterly, unless otherwise authorized.

### Prevnar Callback Program

Wyeth has developed a comprehensive Prevnar Call Back Program which includes HIPAA compliant postcards (postage paid), chart stickers, file boxes, etc. If you are interested in these materials, please contact John McMillian, from Wyeth Vaccines, at 1-888-685-5962 x73454 or mcmillij@wyeth.com.



## NEW Vaccine Return procedure

After submitting a VVFC Return Form listing expired, spoiled, or otherwise unusable vaccine, providers receive prepaid shipping labels for returning the vaccine. Many providers have expressed concern that these labels are not received in a timely fashion or are never received. To improve the process of vaccine returns, VVFC and GIV have developed the following new policies:

- GIV will now mail labels in VVFC envelopes for easy identification.
- Providers can continue to submit VVFC Return Forms as often as necessary; however, prepaid labels will now be distributed on a bi-monthly schedule.

**Submit your VVFC Return form by May 14, 2004, and you will receive a pre-paid shipping label around June 1, 2004.**

The next distribution of pre-paid shipping labels will be around August 1, 2004.



## VVFC Awards Exceptional Immunization Rates

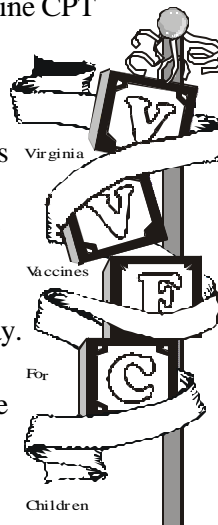
Crossroads Family Practice, North Garden  
Farmville Pediatrics, P.C., Farmville  
Lonesome Pine Pediatrics, Big Stone Gap  
Preferred Pediatrics at Snowden, Fredericksburg  
(Immunization rates exceed 90% using CASA software)

### Outstanding VVFC Compliance

ABC Pediatrics, PLLC, Fredericksburg  
Suffolk Pediatrics, Suffolk

## Small Facts, Big News

- The preservative free Influenza vaccine CPT code (90655) now functions retroactively back to 11/15/2003.
- The maximum administration fee for non-Medicaid VFC eligible kids is now \$14.71 per dose.
- In Virginia, there is no "4-day grace period" for MMR and Varicella vaccines. They cannot be administered until the first birthday.
- You may be missing VVFC news alerts! Email us to add your name to our email distribution list.



QUESTIONS? CALL THE VVFC OFFICE AT 1-800-568-1929

OR EMAIL US AT VVFC@VDH.VIRGINIA.GOV